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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-07
/073 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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DIA WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

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USCINCEUR AND USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRIOT REACTION TO SECOND MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING

1. GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAS REACTED TO SECOND MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING FEB 12 WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM. EXPECTATIONS WHICH SEIZED COMMUNITY AT NEWS OF FIRST MEETING JAN 27 HAVE SOMEWHAT DISSIPATED WITH GROWING AWARENESS THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED ONLY AT END OF LONG, TORTUROUS NEGOTIATING
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PROCESS. MAKARIOS' SOBER PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 14 AND WHAT GREEK COMMUNITY PERCEIVED AS A NEGATIVE DENKTASH CONFERENCE SAME DAY ARE BEING CITED BY MANY AS EVIDENCE THAT THE PRINCIPALS THEMSELVES EXPECT NO EARLY BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF THAT BEGINNING HAS AT LEAST BEEN MADE, AND THAT THIS TIME THE TWO LEADERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

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MAY SERIOUSLY WANT TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCEPTICISM AMONG MORE INFORMED GREEKS AS TO TURKISH INTENTIONS.

2. MOST GREEK CYPRIOT DAILIES FEB 15 REFLECT THIS MOOD OF GUARDED OPTIMISM. SEMI-OFFICIAL PHILELEFTHEROS, COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, AND CONSERVATIVE AGHON SEE SATURDAY'S MEETING AS A STEP FORWARD BUT CAUTION AGAINST UNCHECKED EXPECTATIONS. PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI, FREQUENTLY CRITICAL OF MAKARIOS' HANDLING OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS, PRIASES ARCHBISHOP FOR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN MAKING CONCESSIONS AND NOT ATTEMPTING TO CONCEAL THE FACT FROM GREEK CYPRIOT PEOPLE. PRO-SAMPSON MAKHI, HOWEVER, COMPLAINS THAT ARCHBISHOP HAS APPARENTLY CONCEDED TOO MUCH ON TERRITORIAL, CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AND POINTEDLY RECALLS THAT CLERIDES WAS ONCE BRANDED A TRAITOR FOR DARING TO DISCUSS A BICOMMUNAL STATE. PRO-LYSSARIDES TA NEA SHARPLY ATTACKED DENKTASH FOR "CALLOUS, CYNICAL, INTRANSIGENT, PROVOCATIVE" BEHAVIOR AT HIS SUNDAY PRESS CONFERENCE; PAPER CONCLUDES HE DESTROYED CLIMATE OF OPTIMISM, CYPRUS PROBLEM MUST BE INTERNATIONALIZED, CYPRIOTS MUST RETURN TO "LONG STRUGGLE" POLICY.

3. TURKISH CYPRIOTS, IN WAKE OF SECOND MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETINGS, REMAIN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF THE TALKS, ADAMANT THAT THEIR SECURITY REQUIRES SEPARATION OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES, AND MILDLY CONCERNED THAT DENKTASH'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS FREEDOM OF SETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT MIGHT UNDERMINE THE SEPARATION
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PRINCIPLE. TURKISH CYPRIOT POLITICAL PARTIES, THE PRESS, AND VARIOUS GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS WELCOMED THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH CONTACTS; EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GREEK COMMUNITY IS AT LAST SEEING THE "REALITIES"; AND (THROUGH LETTERS, STATEMENTS, AND DEMONSTRATIONS) STRESSED TO DENKTASH NECESSITY OF CONTINUED SEPARATION OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES. (DENKTASH IN TURN HAS ASSURED COMMUNITY THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING WHICH UNDERMINED TURKISH RIGHTS OR SECURITY AND PROMISED THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE FOR APPROVAL.)

4. TURKISH CYPRIOT EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SECOND MEETING HAS BEEN LIMITED TO DATE. FEB 15 PRO-GOVERNMENT ZAMAN NOTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH POSITIONS REFLECTED IN ARCHBISHOP'S AND DENKTASH'S PRESS CONFERENCES. OPPOSITION HALKIN SESI OBSERVED THAT SITUATION CALLED FOR NEITHER EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM NOR PESSIMISM, THAT TIME WILL SHOW WHETHER GREEKS HAVE COME TO REASON AND HAVE

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ABANDONED THEIR "LONG STRUGGLE", AND THAT TURKS MUST
INSIST ON A BIREGIONAL SOLUTION IN WHICH EACH COMMUNITY
LIVES SEPARATELY UNDER ITS OWN ADMINSTRATION.
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